

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 113366  
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:ETUNIS:PDW  
APPROVED BY NEA:HSSAUNDERS  
NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

-----014670 041112Z /13

R 040048Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, US, JO

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS' MEETING WITH ABU  
AWDAH

1. ON APRIL 21, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS MET WITH  
JORDAN'S MINISTER OF INFORMATION ADNAN ABU AWDAH, WHO WAS  
IN THE U.S. FOLLOWING HIS PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE  
OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL IN HAVANA.

2. MR. SAUNDERS REVIEWED CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS, MAKING  
FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

-- THE U.S. IS ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON WAYS THAT WILL  
MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO REJOIN THE PEACE  
NEGOTIATIONS. THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 113366

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE. THAT  
DECLARATION WILL BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN 242 ON THE MAJOR  
ISSUES, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE PALESTINIAN  
QUESTION.

-- IT IS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO GO BEYOND THE DECLARATION  
OF PRINCIPLES TO DEVELOP A NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK WITHIN

WHICH THE WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED. THIS MEANS BRINGING THE ISRAELIS TO AGREE TO THE INTERNATIONALLY

AGREED CONCEPT OF WITHDRAWAL UNDER 242. WE WANT TO DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO THIS ISSUE WHICH WILL BE SPECIFIC AND INVITING ENOUGH SO THAT JORDAN WILL SENSE IT HAS ADEQUATE ASSURANCE THAT SOMETHING SERIOUS WILL BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT IT WOULD JOIN. WITHIN SUCH AN APPROACH OR FRAMEWORK, WE HOPE THAT THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES WILL BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

-- WE HAVE THE BEGIN SELF-RULE PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. ALTHOUGH WE TOLD THE ISRAELIS IT WAS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP AND A BASIS FOR FURTHER WORK, IT IS INCOMPLETE IN MANY WAYS. WE NOW WANT IDEAS FROM THE ARAB SIDE. WHEN WE HAVE THEM, WE WILL LOOK AT ALL PROPOSALS AND FROM THEM GENERATE FURTHER IDEAS OF OUR OWN.

-- NO ONE ARGUES WITH THE CONCEPT OF SELF-RULE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WOULD BE GENUINE. WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE ISRAELIS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY CONCEIVE AS HAPPENING IN A TRANSITION PERIOD, WHAT WILL BE THE PRECISE LIMITS OF ISRAEL'S ROLE DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, AND WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN AT THE END OF AND AFTER THE INTERIM PERIOD. THIS PLAN MUST CLEARLY DEFINE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 113366

HOW SECURITY IS TO BE ASSURED AND THE ROLE OF THE WEST BANK AUTHORITIES IN THIS REGARD.

-- WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS REALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT A FULLY INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, POSSIBLY DOMINATED BY THE PLO, COULD BE ESTABLISHED. THERE IS A NEED FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT AND FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD DURING WHICH WE CAN SET UP A MECHANISM TO MAKE FURTHER DECISIONS REGARDING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AS THEY ARE NEEDED.

3. ABU AWDAH RESPONDED THAT AT THIS POINT WEST BANKERS SHOULD FOCUS ON THE ISSUE OF WITHDRAWAL VERSUS NON-WITHDRAWAL RATHER THAN ON WHAT THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK WILL BE AFTER WITHDRAWAL. IT IS CLEAR THE ISRAELIS WON'T WITHDRAW NOW TO PERMIT AN INDEPENDENT STATE UNDER THE PLO. THE WEST BANKERS THEREFORE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD RESULT IN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. (ABU AWDAH MADE IT CLEAR THAT, IF WEST BANKERS UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHDRAWAL COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY BY LINKING THE WEST BANK WITH JORDAN, THEY WOULD SOON FIND SUCH LINKS A PALATABLE ALTERNATIVE TO AN INDEPENDENT STATE.)

4. ABU AWDAAH ALSO MENTIONED HIS CONCERN THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE ATTEMPTING TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST STAGES OF THEIR SELF-RULE PLAN ON THE WEST BANK. HE STATED HE HAD LEARNED

BANK OFFICIALS AND URGED THEM IN STRONG TERMS TO ACCEPT SELF-GOVERNMENT AND (2) INSPIRED AN ISRAELI COLLABORATOR IN HEBRON TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR CIRCUMVENTING THE AUTHORITY OF LOCALLY-ELECTED MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. MR. SAUNDERS POINTED OUT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SAID THEY HAVE THE OPTION TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN THEMSELVES AND THAT PERHAPS THEIR CURRENT ACTIVITIES ON THE WEST BANK WERE TESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF DOING SO. AT MR. SAUNDERS' REQUEST, ABU AWDAAH AGREED THAT HE WOULD KEEP US UP TO DATE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 113366

ON FURTHER SUCH ISRAELI ACTIVITIES AS HE LEARNS OF THEM.  
CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE113366  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** ETUNIS:PDW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780190-0468  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780593/aaaadazy.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 64dc98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2791578  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS\ MEETING WITH ABU AWDAAH  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PEPR, US, JO, (ABU AWDAAH, ADNAN), (SAUNDERS, HAROLD)  
**To:** AMMAN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/64dc98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014